

Last Chance Canyon

Feb 6, 2021

We had a total of 12 rigs, 1 Toyota and 11 Jeeps. Of these 12 rigs, we had 9 members and 3 guests drivers. Additionally, we had a total of 7 additional passengers, for a total of 19 people.

The group met at 8AM at the Jawbone store, and departed on time at 8:30 after a drivers meeting. We had 3 member rigs meet at the trailhead.

We aired down and the temperature was approximately 50 degrees and clear.

We proceeded up Last Chance canyon, enjoying the scenery and the occasional obstacle. About ½ of the group decided to tackle the 'V-Notch', which resulted in a couple scraped rear fenders. The rest of the trip up Last Chance was uneventful, with some members taking the harder rock lines and some choosing to take bypasses. At the end of Last Chance Canyon, we proceeded up 'Graduation Hill', a steep dirt rockface. This is where a member, Chris Slaughter, earned the distinct privilege of earning the first cowbell since 2019. Due to a still undiagnosed mechanical issue, he was unable to keep his rig in 4-Low, and required winching to get to the top of the hill (transfer case was popping out and going in neutral). 4-High appeared to be working fine once he got to the top of the hill, so we proceeded on.

The group continued on to the other sights for the day, next stopping briefly at an abandoned mining camp and inspecting the various structures and equipment. Next was the Holly Cleanser mine, where we took the time to walk up the hill and check out the massive mining operations there. Next up was another few sets of mining structures in various states of disrepair, and then finally stopping for a lunch break and Bickel Camp where we also toured the outdoor museum. Upon leaving Bickel Camp we proceeded to travel to the Burro Schmitt Tunnel, where several people decided to take the ¼ mile walk through the tunnel to the exit and take in the view overlooking the valley. Upon returning to the vehicles, the parking area was overrun with approximately 100 OHVs with little regard for tread lightly principles and common trail etiquette, and we fortunately were able to move on and were traveling in the opposite direction.

Upon leaving Burro Schmitt we continued down Mesquite Canyon, we arrived at our air up point and at approximately 3:45pm. The group aired up, said their goodbyes, and ventured home. Overall, a wonderful day was had by all and the weather was perfect for the outing.